
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Commission Members:
Crystal Duncan, Annette Evans, Amanda Roberts
Lawrence “Woody” Widmark, Paul Bahna, Michelle Kavouras
JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Crystal Duncan, Annette Evans , Michelle Kavouras, Amanda Roberts, and Paul Bahna

Commissioners Absent: Woody Widmark

Assembly Liaison: JJ Carlson

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*not to exceed 3 minutes*)

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 16, 2024 minutes

Evans move to approve the minutes of October 16, 2024. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – Duncan stated that Commissioner Roberts has resubmitted her application for a seat on the HNHS Commission.

Commissioners – None.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison – Carlson reported on Strategic Plan meetings.

Other(s) – None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Presentation from Betty Eliason Center Board President Joel Markis

Markis gave an update on the progress made in the community through the Early Childhood Coalition. He discussed the current enrollment numbers, the center's goals, and the challenges it is currently facing.

Childcare Services

Evans reviewed the issues identified by the childcare services workgroup, which included the following:

Problem 1: Sitka faces a shortage of available and affordable childcare to meet the needs of its current population.

Problem 2: Sitka’s childcare crisis is not only affecting parents, childcare workers, and businesses, but is also having a broader impact on the community, significantly affecting the local economy.

Problem 3- Sitka’s demographics

Community Transportation

Bahna provided a background on transportation. He mentioned the concerns from the community regarding accessibility of transportation in Sitka.

He reviewed the challenges and recommendations provided by the transportation working group.

Elder Services

Bahna provided a background on the elder services that were currently being offered in Sitka. He also reviewed the recommendations that the elder working group had suggested.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*For items on or off the agenda, not to exceed 3 minutes*)

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Duncan moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk